

NOTICES OF SOME UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF COLEOPTERA IN THE
BRISBANE MUSEUM.

BY WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S., &c.

Mr. De Vis the Curator of the Brisbane Museum, sent me lately some hundreds of species of Coleoptera, (which he had picked out of the Museum collection), without name, and in most instances without any indication of locality or even country. He sent them in the hope that I might be able, by reference to my very large collection in that branch of Natural History, to furnish him with the names of some of them at least. 'This, I am glad to say, I shall be enabled to do, to a very considerable extent, but it is a work that demands time, and it will probably be weeks before I shall have got entirely through the collection. I find, so far as I have gone, that there are a number of species new to me, and these or such of them as I can confidently pronounce from my previous acquaintance with the groups to which they belong to be undescribed, I shall from time to time name and describe. I may mention that in most cases each species is represented by a single specimen only, so that the identification of the genus by dissection becomes impossible, without destroying or injuring the insect; these cases I have been compelled to pass by altogether.

Fam. CARABIDÆ.

PAMBORUS VIRIDI-AUREUS.

Of the general form and sculpture of *P. alternans*, but much smaller, proportionately shorter, and more brilliant in colouration.

The head is black, the palpi and antennæ piceous, the terminal seven joints of the latter clothed with yellowish pile. The thorax is longer than broad, emarginate at the apex, rounded on the sides, and becoming narrower at the posterior angles, which are not quite so largely produced as in *P. alternans*; the upper surface is a little convex, very nitid, and black with a golden green reflection, particularly on the lateral margins and posterior angles; the median and two basal lines are deeply marked.

The elytra are of oval form, convex, broader than the thorax and about twice the length; the sculpture resembles that of *P. alternans*; the costæ are smooth and of a violet black colour, the intervals are deep and densely filled with somewhat transverse granules of a very brilliant greenish-gold. The legs and under surface of the body are piceous-black, and present no distinguishing specific characters.

Long. 13 lin., lat. 5 lin.

There is nothing to indicate the locality where this species was obtained, but there is every probability that it was in the neighbourhood of Brisbane, as the northern parts of the East Coast of New South Wales, and the southern parts of Queensland, seem to be the home of the genus.

There are two distinct plans of sculpture of the elytra in *Pamborus*, one of the type of *P. alternans*, comprising *morbillosus*, *Macleayi*, *viridis*, and the present species, the other of the type of *P. Guerinii* including *Brisbanensis*, and *Pradieri*.

CATASCOPUS LATICOLLIS.

Greenish black, very nitid; antennæ, palpi, legs and under surface of body dark piceous. Head with the eyes, which are large and prominent, as broad as the thorax, the frontal impressions nearly parallel. Thorax: broader than long, almost truncate in front, except at the angles which are prominent and recurved, slightly rounded on the sides, and truncate at the base. with the posterior angles acute; there is a deep transverse impression at some distance from the apex, a still deeper one close to the base, a distinct median line, and a recurved lateral margin in which are a few puncture, each puncture with a long seta. Elytra broader than the thorax, and slightly convex, with seven minutely punctured striæ on each elytron, and a few large punctures on the lateral margins, which are broad, slightly recurved and of a coppery lustre; the suture terminates in a spine, but the other angle of the elytral sinuosity is simply acute.

Long. 5 lin.

Probably from Cape York, but marked, "Albania Downs."

EUTOMA PUNCTIPENNE.

Blue, subnitid, the antennæ, palpi, and legs dark piceous. Head as broad as the thorax, the frontal impressions deep, diverging posteriorly and reaching the back of the head. Thorax longer than broad, parallel-sided, truncate in front, and rounded at the posterior angles and base; there are three seta-bearing punctures in each lateral margin. Elytra twice the length of the thorax, convex, parallel-sided, and rounded in front and behind, with four (sometimes five) impressed punctures on each elytron in a line nearer to the lateral margin than to the suture, there is also a close row of punctures in the lateral margins and on the base. The anterior tibiæ are strongly bidentated externally. The somewhat dull blueness of this species is caused by the whole upper surface being densely covered with very minute punctures, visible only under a powerful lens.

Long. 7 lin., lat. 1 lin.

CARENUM TERRÆ REGINÆ.

Of the type of *C. marginatum*, but smaller and of less elongate form. Black, subnitid. Head broad and flat, with the frontal impressions quite parallel. The antennæ are more slender than in *C. marginatum*. The thorax is broader than the head, broader than long, truncate in front with the anterior angles very slightly produced, rounded on the sides, and broadly rounded behind with an indistinct emargination at each posterior angle, and a distinct one in the middle; the median line is rather faintly marked; the lateral margin narrow, reflexed, of a green hue, and furnished each with two seta bearing punctures. The elytra are as wide as the thorax, and about twice the length, convex, ovate, slightly opaque owing to minute punctures only visible under a lens, and lightly but distinctly striate-punctate, with an impressed puncture on the posterior third of each elytron on the fourth stria from the suture, and a series of large punctures along the lateral margins, which are green. The anterior tibiæ are strongly bidentated externally, with one or two very minute teeth above, as in many of the *C. marginatum* group.

Long. 8 lin., lat. 3 lin. Ticketed Albania Downs.

CARENUM IANTHINUM.

Also of the *C. marginatum* group.

Black, nitid, thorax and elytra dark violet blue. Head broad, the frontal impressions diverging much behind. Thorax much like that of *C. terræ-reginæ*, but with the anterior angles more produced and the base more completely rounded. Elytra rather narrower than the thorax, convex, and ovate, with the faintest traces of striæ, with an impressed puncture on the posterior third of each elytron, and with a series of punctures in the reflexed lateral margins. The anterior tibiæ are bidentated externally with a few minute teeth above.

Long. 9 lin., lat. 3 lin.

CARENUM DE VISII.

Of the *C. perplexum* group.

Black, subnitid, the margins of the thorax and elytra of a bluish green. Head broad, slightly convex, the frontal impressions diverging in a semi-circular sweep. Thorax a little broader than the head, broader than long, truncate in front with the angles produced, and rounded on the sides and behind with the margin slightly emarginate on each side of the base, and on the base itself, which is narrow; the median line is moderately well marked, and there is a puncture in each lateral margin near the anterior angle. The elytra are as broad as the thorax and about twice the length, ovate, slightly concave on the base, and obsoletely striate-punctate, with the interspaces seemingly a little elevated, and without impressed punctures, excepting in the lateral margin. The anterior tibiæ strongly bidentated externally.

Long. 9 lin., lat $3\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

CARENUM PUSILLUM.

The smallest *Carenum* I have seen. It belongs to the group of which *C. Bonelli* is the type. Nitid, bluish-green above, piceous black beneath and on the antennæ, palpi and legs. Head broad, the frontal impressions diverging backwards and terminating in a transverse depression. Thorax scarcely broader than the head,

and broader than long, truncate in front, and rounded towards the base which is narrow and not emarginate; there is a deep impression at each angle of the base, and a well-marked median line on the disc. The elytra are not quite the width of the thorax, and about twice its length, of oval form, and marked with coarsely punctured almost obsolete striae: there are two impressed punctures on each elytron; the one, a third of the length from the base, the others about one-fourth from the apex. The anterior tibiae are strongly bidentated externally.

Long. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lin., lat. 1 lin.

In the descriptions given of the foregoing species of *Scaritidae*, I have alluded to the groups of *Carenum* to which they seemed to belong, and in explanation of that term I must refer the reader to a paper on the Scaritidae of New Holland, read by me at a meeting of the Entomological Society of Sydney in the year 1865, and printed in the first volume of the Transactions of that Society. A reference to the table at the end of that paper will explain tolerably well what I mean, even though there have been vast additions to the number of species since that period, and some of my sub-divisions of the genus *Carenum* have been elevated into independent genera.

Indeed so many have been the additions made and changes propounded in this very interesting and beautiful Family of Insects of late years, that a complete revision of it is much required, and the task is one which I have almost decided upon undertaking. Indeed it seems natural that I should, for the only naturalists who besides myself have paid much attention to the study of the Australian *Scaritidae*,—Count Castelnau and Baron De Chaudoir, are both unfortunately dead.

The two other species of *Adephagous Coleoptera*, which I now proceed to describe belong to the largest sub-family of the *Carabidae*—the *Feronidae*—also very numerous in Australia, and curiously enough, the insects of that family had also long been an especial subject of study and investigation to the two eminent naturalists whose names I have just mentioned with reference to the *Scaritidae*.

TIBARISUS ROBUSTUS.

Black, nitid. Head broad, smooth, slightly convex, with two short oblique impressions on each side in front. Mandibles strong. Thorax broader than the head, and broader than long, the anterior angles prominent, the sides strongly margined with a strong puncture in the upper half of the margin, rounded in the middle, the base truncate and slightly narrower than the apex; the median line is distinct, and there are two impressions on each side of it at the base, one deep and elongate, the other, close to the posterior angle, very short and less deeply impressed. Elytra twice the length of the thorax and a little broader, convex, of oval form, strongly striated, the interstices broad and moderately convex, the stria nearest to the lateral margin very lightly impressed, but with deep punctures along it near the shoulder and towards the apex.

Long. 8 lin., lat. 3 lin.

Like *T. melas* *Casteln.* but proportionately shorter in the elytra.

PÆCILUS LEVIS.

Black, nitid, antennæ, palpi and legs piceous. Head with the frontal impressions moderate. Thorax broader than the head, rather flat, anterior angles rather rounded, sides a little rounded behind the anterior angles, and very slightly emarginate towards the base, which is truncate and rather broader than the apex; the posterior angles are rectangular, the median line is distinct and there are two impressions on each side at the base, one elongate, the other near the angle circular. Elytra broader than the thorax and three times the length, very slightly convex and almost smooth; one very slight stria may be traced on each side of the suture, the others are almost if not quite undistinguishable, excepting the two nearest to the lateral margin, which are distinct and strongly punctured; on the base on each side of the scutellum there is a broad depression.

Long. 9 lin., lat. 3 lin.

I have a specimen of this species in my collection from Port Darwin.

Fam. MELOLONTHIDÆ.

DIPHUCEPHALA HIRTIPENNIS.

Most resembles *D. pilistriata*.

Metallic green, the antennæ, palpi and legs reddish. Head densely punctured, clypeus broad, the angles in the male sharp, prominent, and recurved. Thorax punctured, broadest at the base and clothed with short ashen pubescence, the median and lateral foveæ are broad and deep and join in the centre of the disc; a tooth at the lateral extremity of the lateral foveæ. Scutellum rounded behind without pubescence.

Elytra punctate, clothed with a short ashen pubescence disposed in longitudinal rows. The abdominal segments are similarly clothed. The anterior tibiæ are bidentated externally at the apex.

Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

DIPHUCEPHALA CÆRULEA.

Blue, nitid, with a purplish hue on the elytra. Head small, punctate, the clypeus terminating on each side in a prominent sub-obtuse recurved point. Thorax thinly punctate with the median line narrow and the lateral foveæ small. Elytra coarsely punctate, with three almost obliterated costæ on each. Under surface densely clothed with short cinereous pubescence. Anterior tibiæ bidentated externally.

Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

DIPHUCEPHALA LATIPENNIS.

Metallic-green, nitid, more or less clothed all over with an ashen pubescence. Head not broad, punctate, with the clypeus profoundly emarginate, and the angles prominent, rounded and reflexed. Thorax coarsely punctate, the median line broad, and the lateral foveæ large, but not joining in the middle of the disc. Scutellum large, triangular, smooth, and impressed in the middle.

Elytra broad, and coarsely punctured in crowded rows. Pygidium densely pubescent. Anterior tibiæ unarmed.

Long. 3 lin.

LIPARETRUS CONVEXIUSCULUS.

Rufous, subnitid. Head black, densely punctate, slightly emarginate on the clypeal suture; the clypeus broad, rounded at the angles, reflexed and nearly truncate in front. Thorax punctate, much broader than long, somewhat lobate at the base with the median line scarcely visible. Elytra convex, not covering the penultimate segment of the abdomen, irregularly punctate in rows, with a distinct stria on each side of the sutural costa. Pygidium and penultimate segment of abdomen minutely punctate and naked above. Under surface of body clothed with yellow hair: Anterior tibiae tridentate.

Long. 4 lin.

Nearest to *L. atriceps* mihi, but a very different insect.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Baron Maclay exhibited a sketch of a new species of *Heterodontus*, recently received at the Australian Museum from Japan, and pointed out the marked differences between it and *Heterodontus Phillippi*, the species with which the Japan Fish had hitherto been confounded. He suggested for it the specific name of *japonicus*, and said that he would give a detailed description of it at the next meeting of the Society.

Mr. Macleay exhibited in illustration of Mr. De Vis's Paper, casts of a gigantic humerus of a *Diprotodon*, and a smaller humerus, probably of *Nototherium*. The fossils were both from Darling Downs.

Mr. Thomas Whitelegge exhibited under the microscope a living specimen of the species of *Fredericella*, one of the fresh water Bryozoa which had not previously been noticed in New South Wales. It appeared to be identical with the European *F. sultana*, of Blumenbach.